



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk (860)441-6640  
Town Manager  
(860)441-6630

**Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter**

**Tuesday, September 9, 2008**

**6:00 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.*

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Sheets  
Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Streeter

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.*

#### **3. Calendar and Communications**

*None.*

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

##### **2008-0221 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)**

##### **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting of August 26, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

**A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Sheets, to adopt.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 6 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Sheets  
Abstain: 1 - Councilor Brown-Tracy

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **2008-0107 FYE 2008 Audit**

##### **Discussed**

*Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo noted that the contract with Blum Shapiro was extended for two years to cover the 2008 and 2009 Audits.*

*Vanessa Rossitto of Blum Shapiro explained a new accounting standard that requires Town Council authorization for the Town Manager to sign off on Blum Shapiro's engagement letter. Ms. Rossitto provided a brief overview of Blum Shapiro's and the Town's responsibilities relative to the audit process. The new auditing standard also encourages communication between the Town Council and the auditing firm, and Ms. Rossitto invited the Council to contact Blum Shapiro with any concerns.*

*Discussion followed on the fact that audit firms do not give opinions on internal controls for public entities. Ms. Rossitto noted they her firm has not yet started the 2008 audit, but they will be looking at the issues raised during the last audit.*

*Councilor Bond arrived at 6:10 p.m.*

**Roll Call:** Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Sheets  
Members Absent: Councilor Streeter

**Discussed**

*The Town Manager noted that if the auditing firm discovers something that could be done better or procedures could be implemented, they will make recommendations. Ms. Rossitto confirmed that Blum Shapiro will be doing a more in-depth evaluation of internal controls this year that may result in some recommendations.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0218 Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant**

**A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0220 TVCCA Supportive Housing Program Grant**

**A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0029 Global Warming Assessment**

**Discussed**

*Councilor Sheets explained that she and the Environment and Energy Committee would like the Committee of the Whole to consider establishing a task force on climate change and sustainable community. The project envisioned can not be undertaken by the Council or a Council committee because it will be a sustained, multi-year effort. In Committee discussions, global warming was agreed to be a given, and there was no debate on the causes. While the Committee was looking at this issue, the state legislature passed legislation requiring a statewide reduction in carbon emissions.*

*Using the Guide to Boards and Commissions format, Councilor Sheets prepared a description of the proposed committee, noting applicable legislation, general powers and duties, etc. Councilor Sheets solicited volunteers for the Task Force. She reviewed an issues diagram and organizational chart. Development of a mission statement will be left to the Task Force.*

*Councilor Sheets explained the desire to have task force members reimbursed for expenses. She also provided an overview of some of the issues that enter into a discussion of climate change.*

*Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent suggested changing powers and duties to have the task force report to the Environment and Energy Committee prior to reporting to the Town Council.*

*Town Manager Oefinger asked the Council to define the membership of the Task Force and to identify who will be making the appointments... The consensus of the Committee was to allow anyone to be a member of the Task Force (resident or non-resident) and appointments will be made by the Town Council through the Personnel and Appointments Committee.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*